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5 **MAINTAINING EYE-CONTACT IN TELECONFERENCING
USING STRUCTURED LIGHT**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

- 10 **This application is a Continuation Application of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/121,562, filed April 11, 2002, and Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/283,158, filed April 11, 2001, which are incorporated herein in its entirety by this reference made thereto.**

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to teleconferencing. In particular, the invention relates to methods and systems that permit the appearance of eye-contact to be maintained between participants in a teleconference.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

- 25 A primary concern with video teleconferencing systems is the frequent lack of eye-contact between participants. In the most common configuration, each participant uses a computer monitor on which an image of the remote participant is displayed, while a camera mounted above the monitor captures an image of the local participant for display on the monitor of the remote participant. Because participants frequently look at either at the image of the remote participant or elsewhere on the display, rather than directly at the video camera, there is the appearance that the participants are not looking at one another. This results in an unsatisfactory user experience.
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